

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
GUNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2014 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllrs Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)
 Helen Sutton
 Mick Bowles (A)
 Chris Cope
 Tony Everington
 Cam Pearson
 Peter Platten

Also present were Cllr Roger Jackson (Newark & Sherwood District Council and Notts County Council), the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC), Roger Crafts (LLW) and one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Bowles.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Held on January 22nd 2014 were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairperson.

4. PROPOSED PLANNING APPLICATION – LOWDHAM’S

Mr Roger Crafts, by arrangement, attended the meeting to brief Members on a planning application, not yet submitted, for various works at Lowdham’s including changes of various ground levels and bunds. Mr Crafts distributed plans to Members and explained the reasoning behind the proposals. The Council agreed in principle and will await the formal application.

There was a brief discussion about noise and lights in the Village.

5. TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

In January’s meeting Members reported that the slope road was, in parts, overgrown with grass and that the A6097 verges between the Bridge and Main Street were building in height due to cut grass rotting and turning to soil. Having reported these issues to NCC, TC commented on the present system of reporting highway matters - firstly that the staff manning the help line had no knowledge of the Parish, so much so that at one point it was stated that Main Street was maintained by Doncaster Borough Council. Secondly, TC never receives any follow up to reports and sometimes this is most important, for example the street lights on Trentside. Cllr Jackson suggested reporting online where it is possible to track events. Cllr Jackson will chase the current issues.

RJ

It was reported that various members of the public are appalled at the speed of traffic through the Village. Cllr Jackson is to request an interactive, preferably permanent, speed sign.

RJ

Cllr Jackson reported that road works had been carried out on the A6097 without GPC being informed – Cllr Jackson felt that these works were carried out by a subcontractor and the need for information reporting was not realised by them.

Cllr Jeffery reported that there is severe subsidence on the pavement on the left corner of Inham Fields Close at its junction with David’s Lane. Cllr Jackson will report.

RJ

TC was requested to contact Ian Torr, solicitor, on the matter of the Common Land.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

A member of the public wishes to organise a litter pick, similar to last year, on a Sunday yet to be arranged. TC was asked to contact NSDC to request litter pickers and bags, and for NSDC to pick up bags on the following Monday. TC

Richard Covill, of RC Services has submitted a very reasonable quotation for a clearance and tidy-up of the Common Land facing the Unicorn and downstream. Before proceeding, TC was asked to write to Marston's, requesting they pay the bill. TC

Once again it was stated and agreed that the increase in businesses in the Village has led to an increase in the number of visitors and therefore a great increase in the amount of litter and dog mess to be cleared away. TC was asked to arrange a visit by the dog warden at a weekend in the near future.

Cllr Jackson has been informed by Adrian Adams that he awaits a date for the court hearing on the Buffer Depot. There seems to be some confusion over a planning application for Marhill Service Station – one source says that the application has been approved, but another says that there is an enforcement notice in place.

With regard to Holly Farm – officials have still been unable to contact the owner. Cllr Jackson stated that there are issues at this location.

There are still grave concerns about licensing issues at the Lighthouse Café. The licence states that it is a 'club' but its activities seem to indicate otherwise.

7. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Members were updated on progress on the land purchase. Contracts are ready to be exchanged and it only remains for the purchase price to be paid. Cllr Jeffery suggested that should be paid by BACS – this has, so far, proved difficult. However all should be completed by the next PC meeting.

It was stated that many ditches and dykes still need clearing. Hall Drain is an example. Much of this is the responsibility of riparian owners. It was agreed that riparian owners should be contacted – Cllr Jackson to pursue. Members were reminded of the flooding on the Somerset Levels which may have been prevented or lessened with appropriate flood alleviation measures. RJ

Cllrs Everington and Bowles met with Adam Boucher of Severn Trent Water to discuss flood alleviation. It was agreed that there are problems with both clean and foul water. Mr Boucher stated that Severn Trent are making a case for the replacement of drains in the district but approval and implementation may be a long time in coming.

It was felt that one of the drains issues may have arisen because a house been built over a drain. Notts County Council has responsibility for top drains.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

There was nothing to report under this heading.

9. CLERK'S REPORT

There was nothing to report other than described elsewhere in these minutes.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Garden Waste Collection Scheme

11. PLANNING

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

- Wind Turbine at East Bridgford
- Lighthouse – Licence
- 14/00045/FUL - Westholme, 71 Main Street Single extension to Rear; increased car parking; New Pedestrian and Vehicle Access – no objections.

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

- 13/01812/FUL Mr A Solecki Marhill Service Centre - Erection of Single Storey Extension to Existing Garage Workshop – approved.

12. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

There was nothing to report under this heading.

13. FINANCE

On advice from Roger Snowdin, internal auditor, the following matters were discussed:

- 1 Since the TC became an employee of the Parish Council, invoices should no longer be produced by TC's business. TC will in future produce and complete an expenses form. It may be prudent to backdate this system.
- 2 In a similar vein, the costs of, and invoices for, printing should no longer be associated with TC's business. There are two ways of complying with this:
 - 2.1 The costs of printing – a printer, paper and other stationery, ink etc - could be paid for by the PC. This would invariably lead to TC managing two sets of printing 'stock' and assets – one for personal/business use, the other for GPC
 - 2.2 TC could be paid a standard, monthly, printing allowance. TC suggested £20 which would be less than the average amount currently paid.

The above will be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

Chq No	PSNo		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
104	38	Gordon Oldham - Clerk's Salary	348.06		348.06
104	38	Gordon Oldham - Expenses / Costs	69.00		69.00
105	39	NALC - Annual Subscription	124.68		124.68
106	40	Post Office (HMRC)	37.60		37.60
107	41	RC Services - Grass Cutting	480.00	96.00	576.00
Total expenditure for meeting			1,059.34	96.00	1,155.34
Total expenditure to date			10,875.28	278.00	11,153.28

14. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report under this heading.

15. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

Cllr Everington gave a progress report on the Garden Competition. It will be held on the day of the Fair in July. As Cllr Everington will be away at that time, a volunteer has been found to run the competition. An entry form is being produced and will be available for competitors.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 26th March 2014 in the Village Hall commencing 7.15 pm.